

a stint in the United States Air Force. He attended PS 14 in Corona, Queens, and Brooklyn Technical High School, and holds the A.B. degree from Queens College and the M.A. and Ph.D. Degrees from New York University.

Dr. Cipriani was an officer in the United States Air Force who achieved the rank of Captain and the rating of Navigator-Flight Instructor before receiving an honorable discharge. As a member of the American Society of Safety Engineers, he pursued his graduate studies while employed in the Engineering Department of an international insurance company. He speaks Italian and French fluently, and has been a strong advocate of international education and a strong supporter of a humanities component in technical education curricula.

Dr. Cipriani is married to Judith M. Pellathy and has four children—Maria, Frank, Michael and Dominique.

His accomplishments are varied and great and we might say that Dr. Frank A. Cipriani is the salt of the earth. He has done much for SUNY Farmingdale and for the state of New York. It is no wonder that such a fine celebration is being prepared to commemorate his twenty years of service to such a fine institution. Frank, I salute you and wish you much health and happiness in the days to come.●

#### “WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION”

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, last week, more than 1200 students from across the nation came to Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the “We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution” program. I am proud to announce that the competing class for Kentucky represented Louisville Male High School. These young scholars worked diligently to reach the national finals by winning local competitions in the Commonwealth.

The distinguished members of the class who represented Kentucky were: Angela Adams, Perry Bacon, Katherine Breeding, Will Carle, Eric Coatley, Courtney Coffee, Brian Davis, Mary Fleming, Matt Gilbert, Amanda Holloway, Holly Jessie, Heath Lambert, Gwen Malone, Kristy Martin, Brian Palmer, Lauren Reynolds, Shane Skoner, LaVonda Willis, Bryan Wilson, Darreshia Wilson, Beth Wilson, Janelle Winfree, Treva Winlock, Jodie Zeller.

I would also like to recognize their teacher, Sandy Hoover, who deserves much of the credit for the success of the class. The state coordinators, Deborah Williamson and Jennifer Van Hoose, and the district coordinator, Dianne Meredith, also contributed a significant amount of time and effort to help the class reach the national finals.

The “We the People . . . the Citizen and the Constitution” program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Con-

stitution and the Bill of Rights. The three-day national competition simulates a congressional hearing whereby students are given the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge while they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary constitutional issues. The simulated congressional hearing consists of oral presentations by the students before panels of adult judges.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the “We the People . . .” program has provided curricular materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels for more than 75,000 teachers and 24 million students nationwide. Members of Congress and their staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers.

The “We the People . . .” program is designed to help students achieve a reasoned commitment to the fundamental values and principles that bind Americans together as a people. The program also fosters civic dispositions or traits of public and private character conducive to effective and responsible participation in politics and government.

I want to commend these constitutional experts on their academic achievements as participants in the “We the People . . .” program and commend them for their great achievement in reaching the national finals.●

#### NEXT GENERATION INTERNET

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today in support of S. 1609, the “Next Generation Internet Research Act of 1998.” This legislation funds six agencies that are involved in creating advanced computer networking technology that will make tomorrow’s Internet faster, more versatile, more affordable, and more accessible than today. The Next Generation Internet (NGI) is an advanced research program which fosters partnerships among academia, industry, and Federal laboratories to develop and experiment with technologies that will enable more powerful, flexible information networks in the 21st century. The overall objective of the program is to perform fundamental research in technologies that will accelerate the development of a high-speed, high-quality network infrastructure to support revolutionary applications.

The Internet is a prototypical success story. There are in fact, multiple dimensions to its success. It was a successful public-private collaboration. It demonstrated successful commercial application of technology developed as part of a mission-directed research program. It exhibited a successful transition of an operational system from the public to the private sector. And most importantly, it is a prime example of a successful Federal investment.

In some respects the Internet is now “suffering” from too much success. We are currently constrained by the capac-

ity and capabilities of today’s Internet technologies, which were not designed for either the scale or mode of its current use. Even though new applications and dramatic private investment have increased the Internet’s abilities, technological bottlenecks have sprung up throughout the system.

The Next Generation Internet comes at a crucial juncture in the development of the nation’s information infrastructure. During the period of NGI-sponsored research, the telecommunications backbone of the US will likely undergo a dramatic transition in which the levels of packet-based traffic will surpass that of conventional telephone traffic. The speed and degree of the impending transition is indicative of the urgency with which the NGI goals must be pursued and the results of that research transition to the commercial sector.

Recently, I had a first-hand look at some of these advanced applications. Highway 1, a non-profit organization established to educate Members of Congress and their staffs about the Internet and associated technical developments, showcased several remarkable projects. As a physician, I was intrigued by the virtual reality “Immersion Desk” collaboration demonstration. Using special glasses, I was able to take a guided tour of the human ear, observing its structure in three dimensions, and able to interact with the guided and the structure in “real time”. It was immediately obvious to me the educational benefits that will evolve from putting similar devices into the hands of our nation’s teachers and students. Sophisticated applications, such as the ones I witnessed at Highway 1, place heavy technical demands upon the network. However, until the Internet’s infrastructure limitations have been overcome, these applications will remain outside the reach of those who benefit the most.

Some of the limitations that now impede advanced applications can be mastered through a straightforward application of the existing technology, but there is an entire class of problems that requires new approaches. I believe that our nation’s research and development enterprise hold the key. The Next Generation Internet program will provide grants to our universities and national laboratories to perform the research that will surmount these technical challenges and create the technology that will energize the Internet of tomorrow.

Mr. President, I believe that passage of this legislation will continue the tradition of prudent and successful investment in science and technology. The Next Generation Internet Research Act will help ensure that the Internet reaches its maximum potential to provide greater education and economic benefits to the country.●

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. McCain. I note the absence of a quorum.